

" Two or three of the children were using one of the movable blackboards. Harold said, ' Shall I try on it ? and make it black, make it dirty ? ' " (P. 125, 9.11.25)
"Frank and Priscilla were being hostile to Penelope. They said, ' She's dirty—she's a faeces girl—she's hateful.' "

The remarks quoted from these children hint at what we already know from, for example, the obsessional neurotic, that in unconscious phantasy the " badness " of faeces and urine goes far beyond their real (hygienic or physiological) harmfulness. It has for the child, indeed, little or nothing to do with this objective reality, although the teachings of adults may be woven into the texture of the child's phantasies. The content of the " badness " derives rather from the child's actual experiences in the anal situation, and his own hostile tendencies towards other persons.

These latter may take a variety of forms, the two main types being, firstly, obstinate withholding and retaining of faeces (as a means of pleasure to *oneself*), and refusing to part with it except at one's own wish. This obstinate refusal to give to others brings the fear of retribution in kind (denial of food, etc.) from others. The faeces become bad because they have made one behave in a bad way, and thus exposed one to danger. Moreover, this obstinate retention leads to an intensification of the endo-psychic experiences deriving from the action of the rectal muscles—forcing, cutting, expelling the faeces; and the forcing, cutting feel of the (hard) faeces themselves within the bowel. In phantasy, the hard lump of faeces becomes a dangerous foreign object, sometimes identified with angry parents, sometimes with the child's own bad self,

I was recently told by a mother of a girl of three and a half, very obstinate in refusing to defaecate,

sometimes for as long
as four or five days, that the child took a great
fancy to a new
nurse and her first expression of her liking was,
within ten
minutes of the nurse's arrival, voluntarily to fetch
her chamber
pot and say, " I'll do my ' duty' for *you*" The
child thus
clearly shows us how love and a wish to please
may reinstate
the earlier attitude of making a gift of the act
of voiding,
even in a case where fear and hatred have led
to serious and
chronic difficulty.

The second form of active anal hostility is that
of forcibly
and defiantly expelling excrement and flatus
(if one *has* to